

# Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

## BENIN

December 2006



### At a Glance: Malaria in Benin

Population: 7.9 million<sup>1</sup>

Life expectancy: 52 years (male),  
54 years (female)<sup>1</sup>

Population at risk of malaria: 100%<sup>2</sup>

Under-5 mortality rate: 152/1000, or  
approximately 1 in 7 children<sup>3</sup>

Estimated annual malaria deaths  
in children under 5: 11,300\*<sup>4</sup>

\* Actual numbers of malaria cases are considered  
to be much higher since the majority of cases  
in Africa are unreported.

<sup>1</sup> CIA World Fact Book

<sup>2</sup> Roll Back Malaria 2005 World Malaria Report

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF

<sup>4</sup> WHO/AFRO, WHO CHERG (2000)

### Background

Malaria is a major health problem in Benin, where the entire population lives in areas with malaria transmission. It accounts for more than 35 percent of outpatient visits and approximately 27 percent<sup>2</sup> of deaths in children under 5 years of age.

Benin is one of eight new third-round target countries benefiting from the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a five-year, \$1.2 billion program led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the Department of State, and the White House.

### Goal

The goal of PMI is to cut malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 countries in Africa by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups – principally pregnant women, children under 5 years of age, and persons living with HIV/AIDS – with lifesaving services, supplies, and medicines.

PMI coordinates with national malaria control programs and international partners, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Bank Malaria Booster Program; the Roll Back Malaria partnership; nongovernmental organizations; faith-based and community groups; and the private sector.

### Key Interventions

In support of Benin's national malaria control program, PMI backs four key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Spraying with insecticides (“indoor residual spraying,” or IRS)
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs
- Treatment for pregnant women (“intermittent preventive treatment,” or IPT)

### Preliminary Activities to Date

- CDC and USAID plan to conduct a comprehensive malaria assessment in spring 2007.